

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W

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P R 142042Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8434

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN EAIR BB

SUBJ: CIVAIR: EAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS TO POS

REF: (A) BTN 0210; (B) STATE 025501 AND PREVIOUS

1. ECONOFF CALLED ON ARCHER MORNING FEBRUARY 13 AND, AFTER MAKING ARGUMENTS DISCUSSED IN PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS, PRESENTED AIDE-MEMOIRE AS RECOMMENDED BY DEPARTMENT. ALSO INDICATED TO ARCHER POSSIBLE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF CARIBWEST 402 PERMIT AMENDMENT APPLICATION (REFTEL B).

2. ARCHER, AFTER REMARKING THAT HE HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN ON MATTER WITH EAL REPS. SIERRA AND DELEO, MAINTAINED THAT ROUTES NOW HELD BY US TO BARBADOS WERE FAR MORE LUCRATIVE THAN THOSE EXTENDED BY USG TO GOB. ARCHER SAID THAT, IN LIGHT OF EXISTING IMBALANCE OF ROUTES BETWEEN USG AND GOB, GOB WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO VIEW EAL APPLICATION IN FAVORABLE LIGHT UNLESS THERE WERE SOME FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS IN US/GOB MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. CARIBWEST MATTER, HE ADDED, WAS OUTSIDE THIS SCOPE AND COULD NOT REALLY BE DISCUSSED ON SAME TERMS AS ROUTES WITHIN UNDERSTANDING. WHEN PRESSED FOR SPECIFICS, HE MENTIONED POSSIBLE ADDITION OF ANTIGUA AS INTERMEDIATE ON ATLANTA OR BOSTON ROUTE. ARCHER ALSO ALLOWED THAT GRANTING FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS TO BAHAMAS WOULD ALSO TEND TO HELP EAL APPLICATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ARCHER'S COMMENT THAT GOB HAD TRIED TO HELP
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OUT EAL BY APPROVING TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 1 - 15 PERIOD,
ECONOFF OUTLINED IMPRACTICAL ASPECTS OF OPERATING ROUTE FOR SUCH

A BRIEF TIME. ARCHER RESPONDED BY CLAIMING THAT AIR CANADA SEEMED TO HAVE NO TROUBLE OPERATING ROUTE TEMPORARILY FOR THIS PERIOD AND HAD, IN FACT, DONE VERY WELL ON IT.

4. COMMENT: ARCHER OBVIOUSLY IS NOT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS EAL APPLICATION UNLESS EXTENSION SUCH RIGHTS, EVEN FOR LIMITED PERIOD, INVOLVES QUID PRO QUO AND IT IS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT CONSIDER CARIBWEST'S 402 PERMIT AMENDMENT AS MEASURING UP TO GOB EXPECTATIONS IN THIS REGARD. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON VALUE OF PROPOSED ADDITION OF ANTIGUA ON ATLANTA OR BOSTON ROUTE BUT PERHAPS IT MAY BE WORTH EXPLORING IF SUCH CONCESSION WOULD BE COMPARABLE OR LESS THAN BARBADOS - TRINIDAD ROUTE. (IRONICALLY, ARCHER HIMSELF CALLED UP EAL TWO WEEKS AGO AND, IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON SEPARATE SUBJECT, REMARKED THAT EAL FLIGHT TO POS WAS AT "CONVENIENT TIME" AND ASKED TO BE BOOKED. HE WAS EMBARRASSED WHEN EAL REMINDED HIM THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT HIS PATRONAGE. EAL MANAGER EXPRESSED VIEW TO ARCHER THAT THERE ARE "MANY IAN ARCHERS IN BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD WHO WISH BRIDGETOWN-POS SERVICE WERE ADEQUATE".
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